

**THODISISO NGA HA NDEME YA MINWE YA MIRI KHA LUSHAKA LWA
VHAVENDA**

NGA

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Mushumo wo netshedzwa sa tshipiqa tsha u swikela thodea dza digiri ya Masitasi kha senthara ya M. E.R. Mathivha ya Nyambo dza Afrika, Vhutsila na Mvelele (khethekanyo ya Tshivenda) kha Yunivesithi Ya Venda

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Abstract

This study focuses on the investigation of the importance of some selected trees among the Vhavenda people. The study explores trees which are used when building huts. Vhavenda believe that when building their huts they should not use every tree, there are certain trees used for building material. These trees are of greater importance. The study further explores the protection of homes from evil spirits. The Vhavenda believe that when building homes they should protect themselves. When protecting the homes, people are also protected because they believe that they may be bewitched. The study also reveals the importance of medicine from trees used to prevent death in homes. There are many things which are supposed to be done in homes as a way of preventing death so that people can continue with their lives. The study also investigates the importance of medicine from trees used on children's porridge. According to the Venda beliefs medicine from trees can be used to treat livestock diseases and help the barren to conceive. The study shows that if medicine from trees is used properly it will help people to solve their everyday problems. According to Vhavenda beliefs trees are important in that they can be used to cure people from different illnesses. Trees are important. The Vhavenda traditional healers know these trees. They also know those that can be used to bring peace in the family. According to Vhavenda culture, all trees are important, people cannot live without trees.

Key words: traditional healer, traditional medicine, evil spirits, diseases, death, trees.